4.3.3.2.1.8 *Socioeconomics*

This section analyzes the socioeconomic effects of the ceramic immobilization facility for each of the candidate sites. Only the sites with the greatest socioeconomic effects are discussed. The effects at all of the candidate sites are found in the Supplemental Socioeconomic Data Report (Socio 1996a).

Regional Economy Characteristics. Constructing the ceramic immobilization facility at any of the sites analyzed would generate employment and income increases within the affected REA. Constructing the facility would require 1,000 workers in the peak year of construction at any site. The largest increases in regional employment (about 1 percent) and regional per capita income (much less than 1 percent) would occur at INEL. A total of 2,030 new jobs (1,000 direct and 1,030 indirect) would be generated and regional unemployment would fall from 5.4 to 4.5 percent (Socio 1996a).

A workforce of 900 would be required during full operation at any site. Operating the facility would generate larger socioeconomic changes than would construction, due to the larger, more permanent workforce. Implementing the alternative at INEL would generate the largest increases in regional employment (about 2 percent) and in the per capita income (about 1 percent). A total of 3,314 new jobs (900 direct and 2,414 indirect) would be created by the operational activities, and regional unemployment would fall to 3.8 percent in the INEL REA (Socio 1996a).

Population and Housing. At all of the sites analyzed, except Pantex and INEL, construction employment requirements would be met by the available resident labor force. Some in-migrating workers would be needed to fill more specialized positions during operation at all of the sites analyzed. Project-related in-migration would produce the largest population increases in the INEL ROI during construction of the facility. Pantex, however, would require the largest number of in-migrating workers for operation. These population increases in either the INEL or Pantex ROI, however would be less than 1 percent above No Action.

Housing units, in excess of existing vacancies, would be required in the INEL and Pantex ROIs during construction of the project. Additional housing construction would also be required at all of the sites analyzed, except NTS, during operation to accommodate the in-migrating population. The greatest increase in housing requirements (less than 1 percent) during construction and operation would be in the INEL ROI. Historic housing construction rates indicate that there would be sufficient housing units available to accommodate the in-migrating population at all of the analyzed sites. (Socio 1996a).

Community Services. During construction, only the Pantex and INEL ROIs would experience an increase in demand for community services. However, operation of the facility would slightly increase the demand for community services at all sites analyzed. The effects of population growth due to in-migrating workers during operation would be minor at all of the sites analyzed. The following discussion focuses on the INEL and Pantex ROIs which would experience the largest increases in demand for community services.

To maintain the student-to-teacher ratio of 18.5:1 in the INEL ROI, 18 additional teachers would be needed during construction of the facility. In the Pantex ROI, 22 additional teachers would be needed during operation to maintain the No Action student-to-teacher ratio of 16.3:1. These increases in teacher requirements, however, would be distributed over several school districts in the respective ROIs, and no single school district would be significantly affected (Socio 1996a).

To maintain No Action service levels of 1.6 police officers and 2.2 firefighters per 1,000 persons in the INEL ROI, two additional police officers and three new firefighters would be needed during construction. Two additional police officers and four additional firefighters at Pantex would be needed to maintain No Action levels of service of 2.3 police officers and 2.3 firefighters per 1,000 persons during operations (Socio 1996a).

Projected hospital occupancy rates would increase slightly over the No Action levels. However, projected capacity would be capable of accommodating these small increases in patient load. Only two additional physicians would be needed in the INEL ROI during construction and four physicians would be needed in the Pantex ROI during operation to maintain the No Action service level of 1.2 and 2.0 physicians per 1,000 persons, respectively (Socio 1996a).

Local Transportation. Traffic generated during construction of the immobilization facility would affect INEL and ORR local road segments. U.S. 20/26 between U.S. 26 East and Idaho State Route 22/33 near INEL would experience a drop in level of service from B to C. Tennessee State Route 62 from Tennessee State Route 95 at Oak Ridge to Tennessee State Route 170 would experience a significant increase in volume-to-capacity ratio and the level of service would remain F.

During the facility operations phase, INEL would experience a drop in level of service on one road segment. U.S. 20/26 between U.S. 26 East and Idaho State Route 22/33 near INEL would experience a drop in level of service from B to C. (Socio 1996a).